GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:368
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
PLAN PROGRAMMES IN AGRICULTURE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of implementing the programmes in the field of agriculture in the first two years of the current Five Year Plan period has been very slow;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was inordinate delay in starting the new schemes aimed at giving specific thrust to agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the names of such schemes which could not be started in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 368 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.08.2005.

(a) to (d): The Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan, interalia, indicates slow progress in implementation of Plan programmes in the first two years of the Tenth Plan. This has been attributed to delay in starting new schemes relating to micro irrigation, missions on horticulture and bamboo technology, development of market infrastructure, small farmer agri- business consortia, extension support to States and through mass media, organic farming etc.

The formulation and finalization of new schemes involves indepth evaluation, preparation of detailed project reports and comprehensive inter ministerial/departmental consultations which are both normative and procedural in character. These are time consuming in nature.

However, the new schemes relating to National Horticulture Mission; Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation; National Project on Organic Farming; Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level; Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; and Agribusiness Project Development through Venture Capital Participation drawn up by Small Farmers Agri- Business Consortium (SFAC) have since been approved for implementation. Schemes relating to Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Rainfed Farming Systems; Micro-Irrigation; National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development; Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-Meteorology and Land Based Observation (FASAL); and Capacity Building to Enhance the Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture are currently in the pipeline, awaiting approval.